

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 IO-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

AF-06 OMB-01 /104 W

----- 024162

R 082104Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8454

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0063

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, CA, EG

SUBJ: CANADIAN UNWILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN AID  
FOR EGYPT

REF: STATE 004287

1. DERY, DEP. DIR. MIDDLE EAST DIVISION, EXTAFF GAVE  
EMBOFF ESEENTIALLY SAME INFO AS THAT CONTAINED IN REFTEL.  
IN PRESENTING GOC POSITION, HOWEVER, HE MAY HAVE PROVIDED  
A RATIONALE WITH WHICH WE COULD PRESSURE CANADIANS.

2. HE CITED CANADIAN AID STRATEGY MENTIONED IN REFTEL, TO  
WIT, AVAILABLE RESOURCES ARE TARGETED AT LEAST DEVELOPED  
COUNTRIES AND THIS HAS MEANT AFRICAN ONES. IN LARGER  
CONTEXT OF COMING VISIT, HE THEN ADDED THAT THE MIDDLE  
EAST COUNTRIES ON MACEACHEN ITINERARY WERE SO WEALTHY THAT  
THEY COULD HARDLY QUALIFY WITHIN THESE GUIDELINES. HE  
THEN PAUSED AND SAID, "WELL, COME TO THINK OF IT I  
SUPPOSE THAT EGYPT PROBABLY IS POOR ENOUGH."

3. GOC BUDGETARY BELT-TIGHTENING MENTIONED REFTEL WOULD  
APPEAR TO BE VALID POINT AND WOULD SEEM TO PRECLUDE GOC  
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PARTICIPATION. BUT EMBASSY HAS STRONG INDICATION THAT

GOC IS HAVING DIFFICULTY FULFILLING MACEACHEN'S PROMISE TO PROVIDE ONE MILLION TONS OF GRAINS PER YEAR FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS. (PROMISE WAS MADE AT WORLD FOOD CONGRESS, AT 1975 UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND REPEATED IN GOC NEW AID STRATEGY PROGRAM ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER). EMBOFF'S CONVERSATIONS WITH CIDA OFFICIALS HAVE LEFT IMPRESSION THAT GOC FOOD PROGRAMS IN WEST AFRICA AND BANGLADESH, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL IN THAT GRAIN SHIPMENT DID NOT REACH INTENDED RECEIPIENTS (E.G., HUNGRY PEASANTS IN COUNTRIES INVOLVED), AND CIDA WAS SEARCHING FOR BETTER METHODS TO IMPROVE FOOD AID PROGRAM AND PERAHPS DIFFERENT RECIPIENT COUNTRIES.

4. FINALLY, WE ASSUME THAT GOC MUST BE VERY CLOSE TO HAVING SUFFICIENT WILL TO FIND A WAY TO PARTICIPATE IN EGYPT AID PACKAGE. PULL-OUT OF TORONTO CRIME PREVENTION CONGRESS AND CONTINUING CONTROVERSY ABOUT HABITAT CONFERENCE, BOTH BECAUSE OF PLO PARTICIPATION, PRESUMABLY HAVE CANADIAN OFFICIALS RATHER NERVOUS ABOUT ARAB EFEELINGS. MACEACHEN MIDDLE EAST TRIP INDEED IS A FOLLOW-UP TO DECISION TO PULL BACK FROM CRIME PREVENTION CONGRESS. WE ASSUME, IN SHORT, THAT SCORING A FEW POINTS WITH ARABS VERY MUCH ON THE OFFICIAL CANADIAN MIND THESE DAYS. FURTHER, DERY GAVE IMPRESSION THAT CANADIANS HOPE TO LAY FOUNDATION DURING MACEACHEN VISIT FOR SOME COMMERCIAL DEALS INVOLVING CANADIAN TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS. PERHAPS AFTER MACEACHEN RETURN, SOME FRIENDLY PERSUASION UTILIZING LINE OF REASONING ABOVE COULD TURN GOC AROUND ON THIS ISSUE, AT LEAST TO EXTENT OF PROVIDING FOOD AID TO EGYPT.  
JOHNSON

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